

Tories lose stronghold seat

LONDON (AP) — Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party Friday lost a parliamentary seat it had held for 38 years, suffering a sharp setback as she marked her 10th anniversary as prime minister. In a huge 12.5 per cent swing against the government, the socialist Labour Party captured the Vale of Glamorgan, a largely rural Welsh district, with a 6,022-vote majority, just contrasted with the Conservatives' 6,251-vote majority in 1987. "This shows what the new modern Labour Party can do," Mrs. Thatcher's days are numbered, declared the victor, John Smith, after hearing the result of the election to fill the House of Commons seat following the incumbent's death. Dejected Conservative Rod Richards acknowledged that votes were cast over Thatcher's plans to overhaul property taxes and the national health service, and to sell off the national water and electricity utilities. "We have to win that debate in the country and it will take time because we're changing something quite radically and people are naturally reassured as to how it will affect them," he said.

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King attends prayers in Baq'a

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein attended Friday prayers at Ali Ibn Abu Taleb Mosque in Baq'a refugee camp and listened to a sermon delivered by Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat.

In his sermon, Khayyat reviewed the difficult circumstances that the early Muslims passed through and the sacrifices they made in defence of justice and God's message on earth. Stressing that the faithful are always firm in their belief and guided by God's wisdom, Khayyat said that the unfaithful stir discord and perpetrate injustice.

Khayyat said that since assuming his constitutional responsibilities, His Majesty King Hussein worked for the progress and the best of the country.

Khayyat addressed the King and said: "We know that you give aid to the poor, help students through scholarships, contribute to the treatment

of the sick, pay Zakat, and do not publicise all these deeds. We know that you do not publicise a number of matters related to sleepless nights spent on exerting untiring efforts for the sons of your country. You have been working day and night for their best and for meeting their needs. You have also been a compassionate father who entrenched security and stability in our country."

Attending Friday prayers were also His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Royal Court Chief Thouqan Al Hindawi, senior civilian and military officials, and citizens.

At the conclusion of prayers, the citizens shouted slogans in support of the King reaffirming their confidence in his leadership.

Baq'a refugee camp (Petra photo)



BUZZING SOUQ: 'Eid Al Fitr shoppers throng the downtown shopping area ahead of the

feast, which begins Saturday (photo by Yousef Al 'Allam)

'Eid Al Fitr begins today

AMMAN (I.T.) — The chief Islamic justice announced Friday that Saturday was the first day of 'Eid Al Fitr. In a statement carried on Radio Jordan, he said the moon of Shawwal was sighted.

Saturday was the first day of the month of Shawwal, marking the end of the Holy Month of Ramadhan.

On this occasion, His Majesty King Hussein received congratulatory cables from senior statesmen as well as representatives of official and public institutions.

In their cables they expressed pride in the King's leadership and endeavours to develop Jordan in all fields. They also praised his nationalistic position toward the

Palestinian cause and Arab issues.

They also hoped that the celebration of this feast next year would be accompanied by the restoration of holy places and Al Aqsa Mosque as well as progress of the Arab Cooperation Council.

Cables were sent by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the ministers, the speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, the Upper House members, the chief of staff, the directors of the Public Security, General Intelligence and Civil Defence departments and representatives of official and public institutions.

The King also received congratulatory cables from Arab and

world leaders on the occasion of 'Eid Al Fitr.

In their cables, the leaders praised King Hussein's efforts to achieve peace on the regional and international levels, particularly his endeavours to reach a peaceful settlement of the Middle East question through the convocation of an international peace conference. They also lauded bilateral relations in all areas.

Summer time

Jordan will switch to summer time as of midnight Sunday/Monday, May 7/8, and be two hours ahead of Greenwich meantime instead of three hours.

Sporadic shelling in Beirut; Arabs ready observer unit

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Gunners shelled Lebanon's rightist-held ports Friday, as Arab countries prepared a six-country observer force to go to Beirut to monitor a week-old shaky ceasefire.

Security sources said a few salvos of shells and rockets were fired at harbours in east Beirut and the resort of Jounieh.

A few shells crashed into residential areas, they added.

There were no reports of causalities.

The shooting breached a six-week ceasefire called after six weeks of merciless bombardments between Syrian and Lebanese militia forces and mainly Christian Lebanese troops in which nearly 300 people died.

In Damascus, a Kuwaiti embassy spokesman said that Kuwaiti Brigadier Ali Al Moumen would head a 321-strong Arab force to be sent to monitor the ceasefire declared by the Arab League last Friday.

He did not say who the troops in the observer force, to include men from Kuwait, Algeria, Tunisia, Sudan, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates, would go to Lebanon.

The Arab League has stipulated that the observers would not be deployed unless all warring factions silenced their guns.

Two Arab League envoys returned to Damascus Thursday after talks in Beirut which failed to consolidate the ceasefire.

The envoys — Lakhdar Ibrahim, an Algerian, and Abdul Aziz Al Jassem, Kuwait's ambassador to Syria — said they would return late next week after the 'Eid Al Fitr feast to finalise arrangements for deploying the Arab observer force.

Tunisia 29 officers, nine non-commissioned officers and 23 soldiers; Algeria 29 officers, 12 non-commissioned officers and 13 soldiers; Sudan 26 officers, 10 non-commissioned officers and 12 soldiers; Kuwait 29 officers, eight non-commissioned officers and 18 soldiers; North Yemen 28 officers, seven non-commissioned officers and 20 soldiers.

Arab diplomats had said last week that the alliance told the envys the military blockade of militia ports was preventing the ceasefire.

Army commander Major-General Michel Aoun agreed Wednesday to suspend for three months the sea blockade imposed on March 6 on militia ports, the lifelines for the private arms.

Aoun's bid to extend his authority triggered some of the worst fighting in Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war.

Aoun heads a military government vying for power with a civilian caretaker cabinet backed by Syria.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad criticising Aoun Wednesday said Syria would never allow the defeat of its Lebanese friends, who he said were fighting for Lebanese unity.

"The problem in Lebanon is an internal problem, a problem of an oppressor and oppressed people. It is a problem of an unjust system," said Assad, referring to the division of political power along sectarian lines.

According to published reports Friday, agreement has been reached on the numbers in the observer force. Jordan will send 28 officers, nine non-commissioned officers and 11 soldiers;

The State Department urged all parties in Lebanon to cooperate with the Arab League mediation effort.

Tutwiler also called on the

Arab League to renew its efforts

to bring Lebanon's various fac-

tions to negotiations on power-

sharing reforms.

The summit is expected to con-

vene by the end of the month or in early June.

Received any word at all from Washington (oo missiles)."

A U.S. administration official

said Thursday one option was a

unilateral NATO cut in short-

range weapons — providing

Bonn matched this with a willing-

ness to modernise ageing Lance

missiles based on West German soil.

The idea of thinning out nuclear artillery rounds in West Ger-

many in exchange for upgrading

the Lance has been discussed for

more than a year to the 16-nation

alliance.

Government spokesman Hans

Klein said Bonn had not received

any ideas from Washington since

the missile controversy erupted

last month.

The government is not famili-

ar with any new proposals from

the United States," Klein told a

news conference. "We have not

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation



Happy 'Eid Al Fitr

The Jordan Times will not be published Sunday, May 7, and Monday, May 8, because of the 'Eid Al Fitr holidays on Saturday and Sunday. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Tuesday, May 9. The Jordan Times wishes its readers, advertisers and patrons a very happy 'Eid Al Fitr holiday.

Jordan rejects Israeli report

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Palestinian territory," the spokesman quoted by Petra noted.

The spokesman said the Haaretz report was an obvious Israeli propaganda stunt aimed at stalling the peace process and thwarting Palestinian and Arab peace initiatives.

"Israeli attempts at casting doubts over the Palestinian state, and raising concern over its danger to Israel or the area... is an Israeli propaganda game and an indication of the stagnant Israeli political mentality which refuses to recognise facts and constantly searches for imaginary reasons to block the march for peace," the spokesman said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has proposed elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to elect Palestinian representatives who would negotiate a Camp David style "autonomy" for Palestinians in the occupied territories. The plan was viewed by many as the first concrete step leading to the declaration by the Palestine National Council of an independent Palestinian state on Nov. 5.

"Jordan's July 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the Israeli-occupied West Bank was seen by many as the first concrete step leading to the declaration by the Palestine National Council of an independent Palestinian state on Nov. 5.

Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank was the solid basis for the Palestinian initiative calling for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Nov. 5.

Gunmen threaten to kill W. German

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Gunmen said to be Lebanese threatened Friday to kill a West German relief worker kidnapped in South Lebanon unless an Arab jailed in Cyprus was freed, Palestinian and security sources said.

Militiamen with photographs of the hostage identifying him as "Marcus Quint" searched cars at checkpoints around the southern port of Sidon to try and trace him.

Another Palestinian officer said the kidnapping was linked to the case of Mohammad Ali Hamadi, a Lebanese on trial in West Germany on murder and air piracy charges.

"The released two told me they are scared because the kidnappers have threatened to kill their third colleague if they revealed any information about their abduction," said Lieutenant-Colonel Wajah Ali.

Abu Ali is commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO's) military police in Sidon.

The West German ambassador to Lebanon could not immediately confirm the report, and a government spokesman in West Germany appeared to cast doubt on the kidnapping by noting the two had disappeared under similar circumstances a year ago.

"I have no confirmation whatsoever about the third kidnapping," said Ambassador Wolfgang Gottschall. "We are still trying to find the facts."

In West Germany, the chief judge in the Hamm trial vowed Friday the proceedings would not be influenced by the kidnappings.

Baker to send top aide to Mideast

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will send a top aide to the Middle East next week to test support for U.S. peace efforts.

Dennis Ross, who heads the State Department's policy planning staff and counsels Baker on events in the region, will hold talks in Israel, Egypt and Jordan.

Ross will be accompanied by Daniel Kurtzer, a specialist on the Middle East who is on his staff, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Kurtzer is a boldower from the Reagan administration where he also concentrated on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Ross will go to the Middle East from Moscow after participating in talks Baker will hold with Soviet leaders. The search for a negotiating formula is one of the major regional issues Baker intends to discuss with President Mikhail Gorbachev.

An Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Danny Naveh said Israel has "no interest in receiving the French report."

Bonn: No U.S. proposal received on SNF row

BONN (Agencies) — West Germany denied Friday that it had received proposals from U.S. President George Bush to ows to end the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) rift over short-range nuclear missiles (SNF).

While still opposing early talks with Moscow on reducing the missiles, Bush said in Washington Thursday he was awaiting Bonn's reply to U.S. proposals which could solve the dispute.

The argument has divided the Western alliance ahead of its 40th anniversary summit later this month.

Government spokesman Hans Klein said Bonn had not received any ideas from Washington since the missile controversy erupted last month.

Klein said Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Defense Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg reaffirmed that position in a joint letter to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker this week.

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Two young Sudanese boys smile as they collect corn kernels on the airstrip as an overland relief food convoy stretches behind them with Kenyan drivers and their Sudan People's Liberation Army escorts

Sudan likely to give qualified response to rebel ceasefire

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

KHARTOUM — Sudan was likely to give only a qualified response to a ceasefire announced unilaterally by southern rebels despite the prime minister welcoming the move, according to Western diplomats.

"As Garang's announcement stands, it sounds like he is doing the army a favour," said one diplomat. "It smacks of arrogance."

Guerrilla leader John Garang announced the one-month ceasefire Monday, describing it as a gesture of goodwill towards Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's government. Garang said he was making the gesture despite the government's failure to implement a peace accord reached last November between his Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Democratic Unionist Party, a member of the ruling coalition.

The diplomats, however, said Sudanese army chiefs viewed as humiliating Garang's condition that the SPLA would consider as a hostile act any troop movement during the ceasefire.

The diplomats said they believed Garang's surprise ceasefire announcement was the result of weeks of pressure on the U.S.-educated former army colonel to respond positively to Khartoum's recent peace overtures.

They said the United States had pressed Garang to make the move, largely on the grounds that it would facilitate the movement of relief supplies to famine victims in south Sudan.

Mahdi has said his government, formed in March under pressure from army generals wanting an end to the war, would match every SPLA move towards a peaceful settlement.

But he said in remarks published Thursday that his government must look into the issue before announcing its official position on the ceasefire.

The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said Mahdi was due to chair a meeting of the national defence council to study the SPLA announcement. The council is the highest government body on military and security issues. Its members include the ministers of defence, interior and finance.

The diplomats, however, said Mahdi was not likely to make any announcement on the issue until Saturday when he is due to give a televised speech.

The independent Khartoum daily Al Sudani said Thursday that the Sudanese military leadership did not feel obliged to observe the ceasefire since it had not received official notification from the SPLA on such a move.

The SPLA, estimated to number about 40,000 men, has been on a winning streak against army troops since late last year. It has captured more than 10 garrison towns since February alone.

It says it has been fighting in the south since 1983 to end what it sees as domination over the vast and oil-rich region by the north.

The diplomats said they believed Khartoum would propose some sort of mechanism should be created to ensure the SPLA did not reinforce its positions during the ceasefire and possibly the creation of a neutral force to monitor the truce.

A major pro-government tribal militia rejected Thursday an SPLA offer of an amnesty in exchange for its surrender.

Anya-Iya Two, a 15,000-strong force that fought alongside the SPLA until 1984, said in a statement it would fight the rebel movement until the end and described Garang's ceasefire as disappointing.

The SPLA has made similar offers to three other southern militias, threatening them with annihilation if they did not accept the offer and surrender by May 31.

Iraq clears 78 wrecks from Shatt

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq has cleared 78 wrecks from the northern part of the Shatt Al-Arab waterway that leads to the Gulf, according to the governor of the southern port city of Basra.

"But the dredging of the southern part, which has the Iranian border on its east bank, must wait for the result of the Iraq-Iran (peace) talks," Governor Anwar Saeed Al Hadithy said Thursday.

The salvaged vessels were crippled in the northern Shatt Al-Arab which runs through Iraqi territory by shelling in the eight-year Gulf war between Iraq and Iran. Hostilities ended last August.

Speaking to reporters in Basra, Hadithy said the U.N.-sponsored Gulf war peace talks aimed at turning the ceasefire into a lasting settlement were being hampered by the Iranians.

"If they succeed in the cleaning of the waterway (it) would need an exceptional international effort," he said.

Iraq insists that the Shatt Al-Arab be cleared so there is free navigation through the waterway to the Gulf before other details of a peace agreement are settled.

Iraq demands that Iraq first withdraw its forces from some 2,600 square kilometres of Iranian territory it still occupies.

Hadithy said President Saddam Hussein had ordered the payment of about 1,000 dinars (\$320) to Basra residents who lost their homes during the war at a cost of 100 million dinars (\$320 million).



Israeli Arab boys parade through Tel Aviv with a poster depicting Palestinian 'David' versus Israeli 'Goliath'

Carter urges Palestinian-Israeli agreement on free elections



Jimmy Carter

killing of two elderly Israelis in west Jerusalem.

"We condemn yesterday's senseless and tragic murder of two Israelis, as well as the wounding of three others," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said.

"We are shocked and saddened by the increase in violence and senseless killing arising from confrontation between Israelis and Palestinians in the occupied territories," she told reporters.

The two Israelis died after a Palestinian stabbed them on West Jerusalem's main commercial street.

Israel has tried to draw a connection between the attack and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) but Tutwiler said the State Department did not have any information on the attacker and declined to blame the PLO.

Tutwiler said attacks like the one of the two Israelis undermine the pursuit for Middle East peace.

U.S. expresses 'shock'

The administration Thursday expressed shock over an upscale in "senseless killings" arising from the Palestinian uprising against Israel and condemned the

U.S. senators seek anti-WHO legislation over PLO entry bid

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Two U.S. senators have introduced legislation to cut off all U.S. contributions to the World Health Organisation (WHO) or to any United Nations agency which gives member state status to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Similar legislation also was introduced in the House of Representatives Thursday.

Senator Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, and Senator Robert Kasten, the ranking member of the subcommittee, in a hearing Thursday, endorsed the May 1 statement by Secretary of State James Baker which first called for such an aid cut-off. They were joined by Sen. Arlen Specter in opening statements which strongly condemned the move by the PLO to seek member status in WHO which begins its annual meeting in Geneva May 8.

The Senate subcommittee met to discuss the Bush administration's 1990 fiscal year budget request for international organisations and programmes. Representing the administration were Sandra Vogelgesang, deputy assistant secretary for international organisation affairs and Ambassador Thomas Pickering, U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations.

Senator Kasten said "the Un-

ited Nations faced the most threatening time in its history" because of the PLO move to gain membership in WHO. He said the PLO was not expected to change its mind on its application for membership and warned that the very nature of the debates to consider its membership would politicise the United Nations.

Sen. Specter said he wishes the State Department would reconsider its dialogue with the PLO.

In a prepared statement, Vogelgesang reiterated the Bush Administration's position on the PLO's application for membership to WHO. She stated the following points:

"The self-declared Palestinian 'state', which the U.S. does not recognise, does not satisfy the generally accepted criteria under international law for statehood, and thus does not qualify for membership in U.N. agencies;

"The United States is opposed to the introduction of such a divisive political issue into the technical work of the specialised agencies;

"Moreover, we are convinced that any effort to bestow legitimacy on the self-proclaimed Palestinian 'state' would harm efforts underway in the region to promote peace. The Arab-Israeli problem can be resolved only through a process of negotiations between the parties, not through unilateral acts by either side — such as the

declaration of Palestinian statehood — that seek to prejudice the outcome of such negotiations."

Both Vogelgesang and Pickering outlined the efforts being undertaken by the United States in Washington, New York and Geneva to address the crisis. There have been high-level meetings with embassy representatives in Washington, and also with WHO's director general, Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, according to Vogelgesang.

In answer to a question by Sen. Leahy, Pickering said he was in touch with the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuelar.

He said that the United Nations' view of a state was "exactly like" that held by the United States. He said that in the last two weeks he has met with 15 to 20 U.N. permanent representatives from various countries who share "our deep concern." Pickering said there is "a deep unease in New York at what is going on." He added that the legislative steps taken by Congress will bring home to U.N. members "how disastrous it would be" if the PLO is admitted as a member state to WHO.

Vogelgesang, answering Sen. Leahy, said "comparable efforts" have also been undertaken in Geneva. She also praised the bipartisan support of Congress on the issue.

Iranian television screens confessions by alleged spies

NICOSIA (AP) — Tehran Television Thursday showed seven alleged spies, including a Briton, confessing to their guilt in a new weekly programme called "Top Secret."

The state-run television, monitored in Nicosia, said the six Iranians were among a large group of spies who have been arrested in various parts of Iran.

Iran's Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani disclosed last month that "many nests of spies," all linked to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), have been uncovered and many members have been arrested. But only one of the Iranian spies who appeared on television stated outrightly that he had worked for the Americans.

Other alleged spies were to appear in the series which will be broadcast each Thursday night.

Rafsanjani and other officials said they would not disclose the exact number of those arrested to avoid providing the CIA with information it may be seeking. But they claimed many of the suspects were military personnel or held sensitive govern-

ment posts.

The first to appear on the one-hour show was Roger Cooper, a British businessman arrested Dec. 7, 1985. He was formally charged with espionage a year later and officials have claimed that he also has been tried and sentenced.

But the sentence has not been disclosed.

Speaking in Farsi, Cooper, who had lived in Iran for 20 years when arrested, said he thought he could use the information he had gathered over the years "for the benefit of my country."

"I knew that I could help British intelligence in ways," a mustachioed Cooper, 53, said. He wore glasses and spoke calmly.

Details of some of the activities he allegedly undertook, Cooper said: "For instance, when I met people whom I thought would be useful, I would introduce them to the British intelligence service, for whom he worked."

It was not clear if the segment on Cooper was new or a replay of two earlier appearances on Tehran television in which he

made the same confession.

The second on the show was a mutashoed man who identified himself as Majid Rashidpour. He said he had been an air force navigator for 19 years until his arrest and sentenced.

He said he had been trained in the use of codes and ciphers, and invisible ink to pass messages. He did not say who trained him, but that he was while trying to leave Iran "illegally."

Rashidpour said he "had connection with America," but did not elaborate further.

Next appeared Ali Reza Razaq, a frail, dark-haired man who after identifying himself and saying he was "ashamed of my treachery," broke down in tears.

The fourth alleged spy to speak on the programme was Ahmad Behrooz, a stocky grey-haired man who said he was an actor. He also said he was ashamed of his "treachery," and offered his "deep apology to the people of Iran, to the soldiers and to the children who have fought for the country." He gave no other details of what his crime was.

Iraqi-Saudi microwave networks linked

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq and Saudi Arabia have completed a microwave link which will begin operating next year, Transport and Communications Minister Mohammad Hamza Al Zubaidi said Thursday. He said the \$16-million link will enable Iraq to use the Saudi telecommunications network to contact the Gulf states, Egypt, Sudan, Europe and the Far East and permit Saudi Arabia to contact Turkey, Jordan and Syria via the Iraqi network.

Sudanese president to visit UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — Sudanese President Ahmad Ali Al Mirghani will pay an official visit to the United Arab Emirates May 14, the Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported. It did not give the length of the visit.

Saudi pardoned Briton held in U.K.

LONDON (R) — A Briton freed from a Saudi Arabian jail where he was serving eight years for murder was arrested Friday after flying into London's Heathrow airport. Police detained engineer Peter Hall, 41, as he stepped out of the aircraft but said the arrest was not connected with any alleged offences in Saudi Arabia. Hall and his wife Monica, 38, were convicted of beating Irish nurse Helen Feeney to death in April 1986 but released from jail this week after King Fahd granted them elemency. A police spokesman said Hall was being driven to Inverness, Scotland, where the warrant for his arrest was issued. Hall's solicitor Paul Malone said he believed the arrest was connected with charges of assault. "There is no connection at all between our warrant and anything that happened in Saudi Arabia," the spokesman said. Hall's wife, who is also Irish, was not detained and was not wanted for questioning, he added.

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue.....	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 677777
Fire Brigade	622999/93
Blood Bank	775221
Hospital	843402
Traffic Police	656390/91
Police Security Department	656000 / 685111
Health Complaints	603600
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Ferdowsi pharmacy	776336

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will remain partly cloudy and

temperatures will continue decreasing to become below the annual average. Winds will be northerly fresh causing dust in the southern and eastern areas; and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

Min/max. temp. Amman 14 / 23
Aqaba 20 / 32
Desert 20 / 30
Jordan Valley 18 / 27

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 42 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:55 Amman, Cairo (MS)
07:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RU)
07:15 Cairo (MS)
07:30 Bagdad (IA)
07:45 Kuwait (KU)
08:00 Kuala Lumpur (KL)
08:15 Athens (RJ)
08:30 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
08:45 Tripoli (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:55 Agaba (RJ)
07:00 Tripoli (RJ)
11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:10 Athens (RJ)
11:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)
12:45 Cairo (MS)
13:00 Bangkok (Mukammar)
14:45 Benghazi (LN)
15:25 Royan (RJ)
15:30 New York, Montreal (RJ)
17:20 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
17:55 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:45 Tripoli (RJ)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:55 London (RJ)<br



FARREH WALADAK (make your child happy) calls from side street vendors draw attention of fathers and children for toys as everybody was on a shopping spree for the 'Eid Al Fitr (Photo by Yousef Al Allan).

Al Hussein meets Karak, Balqa delegations

King: Jordan will surmount present difficulties, challenges

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Thursday Jordan had been able to make a lot of achievements despite its very limited financial resources because it owns what others lack in terms of resolve, determination and strong will which enabled it to overcome all challenges and dangers.

Addressing delegations from Karak and Balqa governorates at a meeting at the Royal Court Thursday, the King said: "We are passing through difficulty, but we are confident that we will be able to overcome it and to achieve our objectives in building the homeland."

"We all should organise ourselves and to adjust our life to live the reality and to achieve self-sufficiency through sharing the responsibilities, awareness and planning," he said.

King Hussein voiced Jordan's gratitude and appreciation to the Arab brothers who voiced their readiness to help and to provide support for Jordan and noted in particular those who honoured their commitments to the Kingdom. He paid special tribute to Saudi Arabia.

King Hussein said he was confident Jordan would surpass all

difficulties and challenges and called on the people to realise the delicacy of the circumstances and to assess the extent of the danger and challenge facing the Kingdom, given the fact its position in the heart of the Arab World.

The King noted that these challenges "are not targeted against us or against our land, but against the whole Arab Order and the whole Arab Nation."

King Hussein added that Jordan had been subjected to many tests and had encountered challenges but it has proved able to counter them and did counter them. "In countering such challenges," King Hussein said, "we proved that we are men and that we do not deviate from the path we have charted for ourselves and do not change our convictions and do not succumb to dangers."

The King also said it was Jordan's destiny, honour and duty to stand by all Arab brothers and to counter any danger facing any part of the Arab World. "Jordan feels proud of its Arab belonging," the King said.

He pointed out that Jordan was part of the Arab World and that it was its duty to carry its pan-Arab message in the best manner, setting an example for others to follow.

The King called on the people to work hand-in-hand to achieve Jordan's noble objectives.

cause "we believe in God and our citizen, and consequently own the components of survival which we consider as a means and not as end through which we perform our duties."

Referring to the events which took place recently in some parts of Jordan, King Hussein said: "What has taken place in our country is painful. To be frank with you, I must tell you that I have suffered a lot since I have been abroad trying to do my best to serve Jordan and Palestine and the Arabs."

"What has been more painful to me was the slight doubt that some of you might have that the country needed such incidents which constitute self-destruction and distortion of image so that the news about the suffering of any Jordanian can reach Jordan's leadership."

King Hussein stressed the need for meaningful dialogue, responsible freedom and complete participation in shouldering responsibilities, saying that he would always listen to them and brief them on the realities of situation.

The King called on the people to work hand-in-hand to achieve Jordan's noble objectives.



His Majesty King Hussein Thursday addresses representative of Balqa at the Royal Court



DEFENCE, SECURITY: Prime Minister, Minister of Defence Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Thursday calls at the Armed Forces headquarters, where he met for a while with the Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb. Part of the meeting was attended by directors of Public Security and General Intelligence Departments, assistants to the Chief of Staff, the Commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, the Armed Forces Inspector General and senior Armed Forces officers.



CREDENTIALS: Deputy Prime Minister Marwan Al Qasem (right) newly appointed Romanian Ambassador to Jordan and Foreign Minister Dimitri Sanso (Petra/photo) Thursday receives a copy of the credentials of the

Bulgarian festival opens today at Alia Hotel

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director-general of Alia Hotel, Dr. Nazih Al Dabbas, has said that the Bulgarian festival will begin Friday, the first day of 'Eid Al Fitr, under the patronage of the Tourism and Antiquities Minister Yanal Hikmat.

Dr. Al Dabbas said that Alia Hotel has always keen to present whatever is new and distinguished so as to meet the wishes of the citizens. The objectives of these activities, he added, is to get familiarised with the cultures of other peoples and to encourage people to spend their vacations in Jordan.

He continued that these festivals encourage regional and international tourism as they include enjoyable folkloric and modern dancing and acrobatic and gymnastic shows.

A number of officials, members of the diplomatic corps, pressmen, and travel and airline agents were invited to attend the opening event which will run through May 15.

Clash in Gaza

(Continued from page 1)

broadcast on Israeli radio stations.

Parliament member Huim Oron of the Socialist Mapam Party was quoted by Israel Radio as criticising Shamir for calling on the public to take the law into their own hands.

A senior Iranian leader Friday urged Palestinians to kill Westerners, hijack aircraft, threaten U.S. interests worldwide and blow up factories in the West to regain their rights from Israel.

Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said he did not mind if he was branded an advocate of terrorism.

"If in retaliation for every Palestinian martyred in Palestine they kill and execute, not inside Palestine, five Americans or Britons or Frenchmen, they (the Israelis) would not continue these wrongs," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted him as saying.

"Those who give \$10 billion a year to preserve Israel and know what they are doing, is their blood worth anything," Rafsanjani asked in a Friday prayer sermon in Tehran.

IRNA said Rafsanjani, a front-runner in August presidential elections, also urged Palestinians to hijack planes to secure the release of prisoners held in Israel and to blow up factories in Western countries.

In the West Bank, 40 Israeli settlers marched from Alon Shvut settlement waving Israeli flags to a point near the village of Nahalin, demonstrating an "avowed right" to travel anywhere in the Biblical land of Israel.

Israeli police killed five Palestinians in the village April 13 during a raid in which the army Thursday admitted security forces committed major blun-

One way to improve the economy

By Mariam M. Shahin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — During the last six months or so heated discussions have taken place amongst all members of Jordanian society — from government officials to the general public — on means to get the national economy back on track.

There have been many suggestions and recommendations on how to increase the flow of foreign currency into the Kingdom and curb "superfluous" spending on all levels, from the corridors of the ministries and government departments to our living rooms and kitchens.

Undoubtedly, things are indeed changing and many Jordanians have heeded the call for austerity measures to make the country and its people adjust to the new situation warranted by the decline in the Jordanian dinar's exchange value and further import restrictions adopted by the government.

Simultaneous with the belt-tightening measures, there have been calls to develop industries that already exist in Jordan as well as establish new ones. The curbs on imported goods in all sectors should certainly encourage local production, even if it will not do a lot for quality control.

According to Fawzi Abu

Bridge closure announced

AMMAN (Petra) — King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges on the River Jordan will be open for traffic and passengers wishing to cross the two bridges until 10 a.m. Tuesday May 9, while they will be completely closed on Wednesday May 10, according to Public

Security Department source. On Tuesday only 750 people will be allowed to cross the river through King Hussein bridge and 350 through Prince Mohammad's. However movement on both bridges will go back to normal as of Thursday May 11, the PSD source said.

April — hot and dry

AMMAN (Petra) — The highest average temperatures were registered this April, when the average temperature throughout the month reached 20.3 centigrade, an average that has not been recorded in Jordan for 65 years. Meteorology Department Director Ali Abada said Thursday.

Abada added that maximum temperatures registered in April (27.5) were 5 centigrades higher than average maximum temperature, while the minimum temperatures (13.2 centigrade) were higher than the average by almost 4 centigrade.

Abada added that the weather in April was hot and dry and

there was hardly any rainfall, except for the showers which fell in the southeasterly parts of Jordan on April 19.

Dr. Ali Abada

Thanks

AMMAN (J.T.) — The honorary consulate of Bangladesh here has expressed its thanks to the JTV Authority on behalf of Bangladeshi Muslims during the holy month of Ramadan.

World" which was telecast on May 2, 1989 covering the life, culture and tradition of Bangladeshi Muslims during the holy month of Ramadan.

Abu Hamdan leaves for Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Jordanian Vice President for Legal Affairs Jamal Abu Hamdan, who is also the rapporteur of the Arab Cooperation Council's civil aviation board, Thursday left for Cairo for talks with the board's chairman and Egypt Civil Aviation Authority Chairman Ali Zico on preparations for the forthcoming meeting of the board, which will be held in Baghdad later this month.

The board's technical and planning committees met last week in Amman, Baghdad, Cairo and Sana'a and drew up reports on progress of their work and made recommendations for discussions at the board's general assembly meeting in Baghdad.

The unified civil aviation council includes directors of civil aviation authorities in Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and Yemen, in addition to heads of airlines and aviation and institutions in the four countries.

Projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment Yousef Humdan Al Jaber approved a number of contracts for carrying out projects in five local councils at a cost of JD 120,412.

Boustany, Clayton: A concert to remember

By Nelly Lama
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the British Council will jointly present a concert by flautist Wissam Boustany and pianist Nigel Clayton, at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre on Monday, May 15, at 8.00 p.m.

Wissam Boustany is a celebrated flute virtuoso who has received great acclaim in most music critiques ranging from Alan Blith's "...the extraordinary fluent and forthright young flautist, who, in terms of expressive power, defies the bounds imposed by his chosen instrument."

According to Abu Nawar there are already established storage areas, such as Guweisneh, which are not being used to full capacity by any means.

There are countless money saving formulas, but they have to be applied. Economising on ways goods are shipped from the Far East to Jordan is one such way. Abu Nawar explains: "For a container to reach Kuwait from Hong Kong it costs the Kuwaitis \$600. For the same container to reach Aqaba it costs Jordan \$1,650. We have thousands of trucks coming back empty from Baghdad. Why don't we have our goods delivered to Basra, and have our trucks come back with these goods instead of coming back empty. We save on hard currency and we become more efficient by using our trucks. These concepts have to be applied without hesitation and immediately."

According to Abu Nawar, in 1988, 74 per cent of all the goods that arrived in Jordan were transit goods. Thus the most logical step for Jordan is to create a free port. Once you have that you will encourage transit cargo and thus the inflow of foreign currency.

The Port of Aqaba could be instrumental in helping Jordan out of its economic squeeze. If the transit cargo going to Arab countries would be transported by Arab transport companies, we save foreign currency. Encourage local industries and save time. To save time is to save money.

"Not only that," says Abu Nawar, "we have 12,000 lorries, which cost anywhere from JD 40,000-50,000 each; there maintenance and upkeep is much more costly than trains will ever be."

Mr. Boustany has given recital and concerto performances

throughout Europe, China, Mexico, Canada and the United States. He has performed with the London Symphony Orchestra, The Scottish Chamber Orchestra, The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, with whom he filmed "Vivaldi," the Bournemouth Sinfonia, the Utrecht Symphony Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe with whom he toured extensively. He is the featured flautist in "Il Viaggio a Reims" which was recorded for (none less than) Deutsche Grammophone by the Chamber Orchestra of Europe conducted by Claudio Abbado.

His young partner (born 1960), Nigel Clayton, was trained at the Royal College of Music from the age of ten as a junior exhibitioner and later as an associated board scholar. He won many prizes for solo, duo and chamber music performances. He was awarded the top prize for his Bachelor of Music Degree from the Royal College of Music in 1982.

He has already performed in the most notable halls in Britain (The Royal Albert Hall, Fairfield Hall, Croydon, etc.). His particular interest in chamber music has resulted in collaborations with some of the foremost instrumentalists. This has led him to perform and have his performances broadcast in the U.S. and throughout Europe, in among others, Scandinavia, Ireland and Hungary.

Within the past two years he has toured India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan with the Indian Cellist Anup Kumar Biswas, giving recitals and workshops in all the major cities and performing concerto with the Madras, Calcutta and Sri Lanka symphony orchestras. His work goes on with future plans for concerts in Portugal, Holland, Germany, Spain and the Channel Islands. He has been engaged both for the Tihar Varga International Violin Competition in Switzerland and for the 'Escuela de Musica de Valencia' in Valencia.

The concert that these two spirited performers will present, includes "Sonata for Flute and Piano" composed by Gaetano Donizetti.

Another concert for young music lovers will be held at the Conservatory on May 15, at 11:00 a.m. Bring your children!

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Bolis and Munira Tunisiyah at the Housing Gallery.
- * An art exhibition displaying 120 paintings depicting the history of the German city of Berlin and different aspects of life in East Germany, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * The May art exhibition at Al Wasiti Art Gallery, Plaza Hotel.

Jordan Times

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Very important channel

DIRECT contacts and dialogue between His Majesty King Hussein and his people is a blessing that the whole country hopes will be further developed and nurtured in order to assume an institutionalised form. The Hashemite Court has had a well established tradition to open its gates to various sectors of the Jordanian society to hear out directly about their pains and joys. The ongoing meetings between His Majesty King Hussein and representatives of various regions of the country is in fact part and parcel of that tradition and custom that the country is in urgent need for in these difficult times. Some of the reasons offered to explain the recent riots in some parts of the country have been attributed to lost channels of communication between the government and the governed. The accentuation of direct dialogue between King Hussein and his people would most certainly reactivate and fortify an old tradition that should never be allowed to wane. This Hashemite tradition is all the more urgently needed in the absence of parliamentary life in the country. But even when the country does enjoy an operational parliamentary life, there can never be a substitute for periodic direct contacts between the Hashemite Court and the people of Jordan. There will always be fear that any future parliamentarians would serve more their slogans or their demagogueries of whatever colour or kind rather than the mundane issues that affect the Jordanian rank and file. To be sure, whether the projected elections in the country would turn out to be a big success story or a big fiasco would depend in the final analysis on the extent the genuine aspirations and views of Jordanians are truly reflected in the new national assembly. Due to our limited experiences in parliamentary life, there is no escape from the fear that our future representatives in the Lower House of Parliament would not reflect sufficiently enough the thoughts and ideas of the people. This state of affairs would make it all the more pressing to maintain direct channels of communications between His Majesty King Hussein and his people open on a reasonable interval basis. King Hussein has openly called for constructive and calm dialogue when he met Jordanians in the course of the last few days. This Royal wave calling for dialogue is destined to continue in order to reach sectors of the Jordanian society that have yet to be contacted. It is the ardent hope of all Jordanians that communication between His Majesty King Hussein and his people will never cease.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

King Hussein's meeting at the Royal Court Thursday with representatives of the Balqa and Karak regions was tackled Friday by the Jordanian Arabic dailies. Al Ra'i for its part described the meeting and the King's address to the notables as an expression of cohesion between leader and people. The King's reference to the present crisis and the need for closer cooperation on the part of all sectors served as a message to the whole Jordanian family, the paper noted. What is of importance at this stage, the paper added, is the King's emphasis on the need to promote the dialogue and maintain open channels between the government and people on all matters so that cooperation can attain success.

Al Dustour daily said that the King has put before the notables all the facts that are related to the present circumstances and has reaffirmed his deep faith in his people and the Jordanian family's capability to overcome the present difficult circumstances. The paper referred to the numerous achievements in Jordan under King Hussein and said they were realised through the diligence and perseverance of the people under the wise guidance of King Hussein. It said that more can be achieved despite the present difficulties and the meagre resources provided that the Jordanians worked closely and with dedication to serve the common goal. The paper echoed the King's advice to the people to re-organise their social and economic institutions and strive to achieve self-sufficiency with more self-reliance. The King's words, the paper noted, brought back hope to the Jordanian family and strengthened the optimism in the future.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the economic crisis facing Jordan now is part of the difficult economic situation that prevails in the Arab region and this calls for more awareness and more national responsibility and perseverance. The paper said that this was the King's message to the Jordanian family which can through hard and diligent work attain further development and progress. The paper refers to the past achievements in the Kingdom accomplished under the wise guidance of King Hussein and said that despite the meagre resources and the hard circumstances we are confronting now, the Kingdom can maintain the momentum of development.

Poverty and ethnic strains at root of Senegal, Mauritania riots

By Jean-Loup Fievet
Reuter

DAKAR — Acute poverty and ethnic tension between Arabic-speaking Moors and black Africans are at the root of riots which have killed several hundred people in Senegal and Mauritania and embittered relations between the two West African neighbours.

Local people and foreign diplomats in Senegal's capital Dakar agree the damage inflicted in a week of strife will take time to mend, but say neither Senegal nor Mauritania can afford to break relations because of their strong commercial ties.

"A week of violence cannot wipe out centuries of relatively peaceful cohabitation imposed upon us by geography and common interests. After all, almost all of us here have relatives or some kind of family links in Mauritania," said one Senegalese.

The unprecedented wave of looting, beatings and killings in two nations already struggling for

economic survival was only contained after army intervention.

It prompted an exodus of thousands among populations who through the generations had in practice come to ignore the border drawn by France, the former colonial master.

And it shattered Senegal's reputation as a haven of political stability and racial coexistence.

Before the unrest, up to 300,000 Mauritanians, mostly hard-working traders, were in Senegal while an estimated 30,000 Senegalese lived north of the 700-kilometre border formed by the river Senegal.

Moors of Arab and Berber descent, who make up two thirds of Mauritania's two million people, are mainly light-skinned. The rest are blacks of Negro-African stock, working as skilled labourers in towns and as farmers along the Senegal river.

Before independence in 1960, the lighter-skinned Arabic-speakers of the north used to dominate the black population of modern Senegal. Slavery was officially

banned in Mauritania only a decade ago by the military government, where beydanes or "white" Moors still hold a dominant position.

The flare-up was sparked on April 9 by a minor border incident over grazing rights. Two Senegalese were shot dead, igniting tensions in the border region and unleashing a cycle of racial violence in the capitals Dakar and Nouakchott.

Border incidents have not been uncommon in the past but this was the first time in nearly 20 years that blood was known to have been shed.

Senegalese cultivate land on both banks of the Senegal river traditionally neglected by nomadic-minded Moors but in recent years many Mauritanians, pushed by persistent drought, have tried to recover these fields.

Mauritania and Senegal are partners in a regional grouping aimed at developing agriculture along the river. The ambitious scheme, which provides for the building of dams and water reservoirs, has

exacerbated the scramble for farm land.

In Senegal, widespread looting in towns and villages was spearheaded by gangs of unemployed youths who ransacked Mauritanian-owned shops. Many Senegalese finding it hard to make ends meet joined in.

"The border incident was only a pretext. Unemployment, inflation and insecurity on towns are a breeding ground for such acts of hooliganism," Senigne Diop, a law professor at Dakar University told a meeting of intellectuals.

The former French colony, which has few resources other than groundnuts and phosphates, has been implementing tough austerity measures in the past decade as a condition for financial help from international donors.

Both governments have carefully avoided issuing inflammatory statements since the start of the conflict. Senegal President Abdou Diouf, while blaming Mauritania for the April 9 border incident and the killings in Nouakchott, appealed for an end

to revenge killings.

"Mauritania and Senegal are two sister nations with the same

destiny and interests and are consequently condemned to live together," he said.

WEST AFRICA



Will Gorbachev shakeup inspire U.S. to bargain?

By Carol Giacomo
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's latest step to consolidate power could make Washington more confident of striking deals with him but is unlikely to prompt any dramatic changes in U.S. policy.

In a deft move disclosed to the U.S. administration in advance, Gorbachev last week engineered the pensioning off of 110 leading members of the Communist Party's central committee who were viewed as opponents of his radical reforms.

Some analysts say Gorbachev's enhanced political strength should make the United States more confident about making deals, including arms control agreements.

But key U.S. officials have long been divided over Gorbachev's survival prospects and that has not changed.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said in a television interview last Saturday he believed Gorbachev would fail in his reform effort and may be replaced by a leader more hostile to the West.

Though the White House quickly distanced itself from Cheney's remarks, it was clear that a difference of opinion exists in Washington on how successful Gorbachev can be.

The New York Times suggested in an editorial the Kremlin shakeup should give President George Bush further reason to search with confidence for bolder East-West initiatives.

A State Department official said he did not expect any change in U.S. policy prompted by Gorbachev's latest political stroke.

"We have tried to keep our policy from being held hostage to day-to-day analysis," he said. "We determine our policy on the basis of our national interest."

There are things Washington would like to see emerge from the Soviet shakeup, however, including a codification in law of human rights improvements which was long ago promised but has taken longer than it might have."

The experts agree the purge was a strong political victory for Gorbachev. But he is still left with serious problems, including popular discontent over the government's failure to improve the economy and nationalist unrest.

None of the experts considers Gorbachev to be invulnerable. "No Soviet leader can be that," said Andrew Goldberg, a senior fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

He cited the example of former leader Nikita Khrushchev, "who was ousted not by conservatives but by those he raised into power."

'Betrayed' Afghan employees

By Nassir Shirkhani
Reuter

KABUL — "They just left us to our fate," Faiz Mohammad said in a trembling voice from his post within the abandoned United States embassy in Kabul.

"I feel so bitter. My salary is a pittance and cannot feed my family of 10," said Mohammad, one of 121 Afghans who guard, clean, and tend the gardens of the sprawling U.S. mission in the heart of Kabul.

His complaint is echoed by other local employees left behind when all Western countries and Japan left the Afghan capital, citing security fears, after the last Soviet troops departed on Feb. 15.

The British locked up their impressive white mission, the oldest embassy in Kabul, built at the peak of British colonial power in the Indian subcontinent. A guard said no one had entered since February.

The Japanese left in such a hurry that the 23 local staff have not been paid for two months.

Employees said Italy was one Western country looking after local staff properly.

Father Angelo Panigati, a priest with diplomatic status, said two diplomats had returned temporarily to assess the situation but the mission would stay closed pending a European Community (EC) ruling whether embassies should reopen.

Prices have shot up in the three months since the diplomatic exodus and are still rising.

Few Afghans can afford to buy meat at 650 afghanis (\$2,601 a kilogramme). On the booming black market, vegetable oil costs 400 afghanis (\$1.60) a kilo and rice 250 (\$1).

Bread is cheap and subsidised but residents spend hours queuing for it.

Mohammad has worked for the U.S. embassy for 45 years and his take-home salary of 9,000 afghanis (\$35) a month provides only a diet of bread and potatoes for his family.

"When they left, the American diplomats promised us a pay rise but it was only empty talk. They just cheated us and left," complained Zaman Ali, who has worked for the embassy for five years.

Paul Mathews, an Indian who is in charge of the U.S. mission, said diplomats left enough funds to pay salaries and run the embassy. He dismissed demands for more pay.

"Of course everybody wants more money, but I don't think it is necessary to offer them a pay rise," he said.

A Japanese journalist was besieged by employees when he was spotted near the Japanese embassy in the exclusive Vazir Akbar Khan district. "Please pay us our salary, you can claim it back from the government when you go back to Tokyo," one implored.

"If I die, it will be from hunger and not a Mujahedeen bullet," shouted another.

The diplomatic exodus began in a blaze of publicity when Jon Glassman, U.S. chargé d'affaires, lowered the stars and stripes in January.

"The (Afghan) government is like a building without girders," he declared in front of television cameras.

"Most diplomats in Kabul say it could fall any time between now and July," he said.

President Najibullah's government described the exodus as a political ploy to undermine its international standing and give a green light to Mujahedeen rebels battling his Soviet-backed administration.

Mujahedeen, predicting the Marxist government would collapse swiftly after the Soviet withdrawal, set up a provisional cabinet and began bidding for international recognition.

But Najibullah has proved a formidable foe ready to fight to the bitter end.

He also has tried to build an image as a Panamanian nationalist persecuted by the U.S. government, an effort helped by the flap over the \$10 million. The United States has not commented on the reported campaign contribution.

Najibullah also carried an image as a supporter of the poor against the rich and middle class, many of whom are in the opposition.

In his visits to small towns, Najibullah mingles with residents and listens to their complaints and requests for assistance in community projects. Many of

Noriega not a candidate, but he campaigns hard

By Eloy O. Aguilar
The Associated Press

PANAMA CITY, Panama — Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega is not an issue not a candidate in Sunday's presidential election in Panama, but he is campaigning as hard as any candidate.

Some analysts also predict party purges next month after elections for the Supreme Soviet and local posts.

"I think you can see this pattern again and again," the State Department official said. "Perestroika has largely been a process of cadre renewal."

The experts agree the purge was a strong political victory for Gorbachev. But he is still left with serious problems, including popular discontent over the government's failure to improve the economy and nationalist unrest.

None of the experts considers Gorbachev to be invulnerable. "No Soviet leader can be that," said Andrew Goldberg, a senior fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

He cited the example of former leader Nikita Khrushchev, "who was ousted not by conservatives but by those he raised into power."

The campaign was enlivened recently with reports that the United States has provided \$10 million to opposition campaigns and U.S. claims that Noriega's allies are planning to steal the election.

The short, wily general has survived everything the United States has thrown at him so far, from economic sanctions to a coup attempt last year. He has retained his grip through government political parties and the defence forces, whose members are the only visible authority in most rural towns.

He also has tried to build an image as a Panamanian nationalist persecuted by the U.S. government, an effort helped by the flap over the \$10 million. The United States has not commented on the reported campaign contribution.

Najibullah also carried an image as a supporter of the poor against the rich and middle class, many of whom are in the opposition.

In his visits to small towns, Najibullah mingles with residents and listens to their complaints and requests for assistance in community projects. Many of

those projects then are carried out by the local defence forces unit.

In his speeches Noriega has said the 500 municipal council members to be elected Sunday must he turned into a "people's power" assembly, a system that Torrijos once installed in Panama in lieu of a congress.

Noriega went from a close friend and associate of intelligence agencies in the United States to a wanted man following his indictment on drug trafficking charges by two grand juries in Florida last year.

He denies the charges, saying they stem from his refusal to cooperate with U.S. government plans to train Nicaraguan rebels, known as contras, in Panama for an invasion of Nicaragua.

"Then-White House adviser Adm. John Poindexter came to try to convince the general in 1983," Lopez, a close associate of the general said, in an interview.

"When he left, he refused to shake Noriega's hand and told him 'be prepared to face the

consequences.'"

Lopez claimed that shortly after that time the U.S. campaign against Noriega started.

<p



"If India is to attain true freedom... then sooner or later the fact must be realised that people will have to live in villages not towns, in huts not palaces."

Development: villages not towns, huts not palaces

By Kamla Chowdhury

INDIA's poverty is closely linked with its increasing land degradation. Out of the total 329 million hectares of land mass, it is now thought that as much as 53 per cent is degraded in one form or another.

Even more alarming is the rate at which this degradation is taking place: 1.5 million hectares of forest cover disappear every year. Another 1.0 million hectares are estimated as becoming non-productive as a result of improper use.

India's land mass is under relentless pressure; yet the country has no grazing policy, no fodder development policy, and no poli-

cy relating to livestock numbers in relation to the capacity of available grazing land.

Indian forest policy states that one third (about 100 million hectares) of the land area should be under tree cover. Today, of the 75 million hectares under the forest department, only 47 per cent are adequately covered.

Deforestation on this scale has not only resulted in severe fuel shortages, but has also destroyed the culture and livelihood of many tribal communities. The social forestry programme, initially set up to alleviate the fuel and fodder shortages, has in fact provided raw material to the paper, pulp and building industry, ignoring the very people it was designed to help.

India's land mass is under relentless pressure; yet the country has no grazing policy, no fodder development policy, and no poli-

The poor are trapped in a vicious downward spiral: poverty leads to an impoverishment of the resources, and impoverished resources in turn lead to increasing poverty.

Since independence, every 5-Year Plan has focused on the elimination of this evil as a major priority. Yet 40 years down the road, roughly half of the population still lives without basic necessities.

Nehru's dream

Jawaharlal Nehru dreamt of a modern and industrialised India; a country with steel and fertiliser plants, dams and hydro-electric power, modern agriculture and

science. He believed that a policy of accelerated industrialisation would propel the country into material wealth, in much the same way as had been done in Europe and North America.

There is little doubt that the India of today has achieved much in the fields of science and technology. But the contribution of this infrastructure to the well-being of people, particularly the rural poor, is in considerable doubt.

Nehru's original vision of what industrialisation would achieve has failed; what is worse, the policy appears to have increased poverty. The intensive pursuit of large-scale industry has resulted in massive environmental de-

gradation. Such a model of development has already proved non-sustainable.

The basic questions raised must be: What does development actually mean? And what price are we willing to pay for it?

Is the tribal person of Nagaland or Mizoram less well-off than the slum dweller of Calcutta? Is the woman who used to spend only half an hour collecting fuel wood and fodder, and who now spends 6 to 8 hours searching for it, better off?

Economic theory

Economic theory would certainly say so. India's GNP, that ultimate thermometer of econo-

mic wealth, is now far higher than it was 20 years ago.

Perhaps the basic assumptions of Western economics are not relevant to other, older cultures precisely because their application does not yield results in a uniform manner.

Surely the limits to economic growth should depend on the limits of natural resources to renew themselves — something which obviously varies from region to region, from to culture. What is feasible in the Northern hemisphere may not be feasible in the South.

Many years before the environmental debate became fashionable, Gandhiji had asked why India must become industrial in

the Western sense. The India of his dreams was a federation of small village republics providing the essential needs of the community without large-scale industrialisation. This ideology ensured sustainable development without over-exploitation of the natural resources.

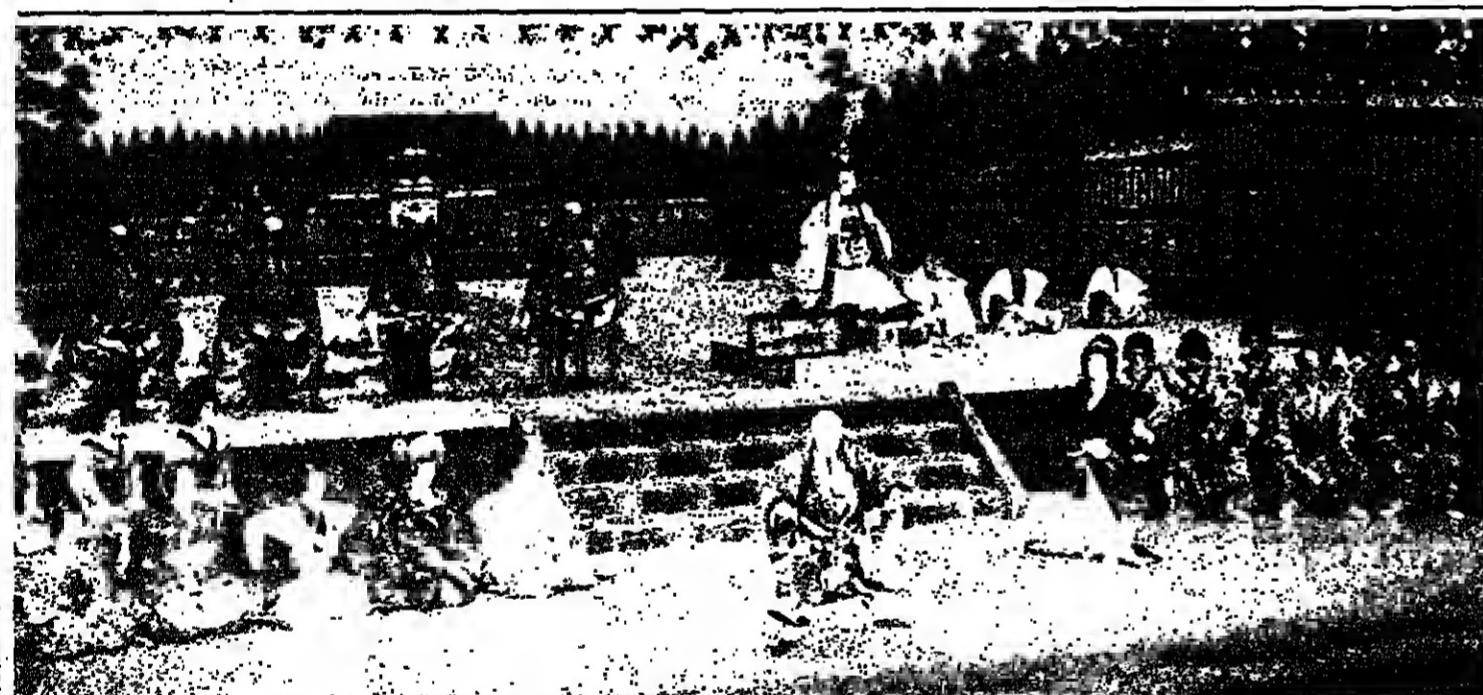
"I am convinced," he said, "that if India is to attain true freedom... then sooner or later the fact must be realised that people will have to live in villages not towns, in huts not palaces."

Gandhiji had a coherence in his vision because he understood the inherent relatedness of things in nature. Tribal people have always understood this; modern thinkers and ecologists are beginning to do

so. This need for a new ethic, or perhaps an age-old ethic, is what Gandhiji emphasised. He was laughed out of court by the so-called modern thinkers of the day. We may now come full circle in our thinking to an understanding of the fact that development must come in harmony with nature, not at the expense of it.

Industrialisation along Western lines has not worked for India; sooner or later, we will be forced to accept that, and find our own solutions.

If poverty is to be seriously tackled, then the issue of environmental degradation will have to receive the highest attention. Panos.



A scene from a Kabuki play

Kabuki star a hit in Dostoyevsky drama

By Nao Nakanishi
Reuter

TOKYO — Thousands are flocking to a tiny Tokyo theatre to see a star actor portray both a man and a woman in a play directed by leading Polish film-maker Andrzej Wajda.

Tamasaburo Bando, the famous "Onnagata" — a male actor who plays women in the traditional all-male Kabuki theatre — portrays a mysterious beauty and her aristocrat lover in "Nastasya", based on Fyodor Dostoyevsky's novel "The Idiot".

Wajda, creator of films such as "Ashes and diamonds" and "Danton", came up with the idea nine years ago when he saw the actor performing in the western Japanese city of Kyoto.

He was astounded to discover the beautiful heroine was actually a man.

"I know of no other actor in the world who could have given me the chance to create male and female roles on stage without any change of make-up or costume," said Wajda at the play's recent opening at the Benisan Pit Theatre.

"He is more a real woman on stage than a real woman can be. He creates a woman, he does not imitate."

Tamasaburo switches back and forth with ease between the roles of the tragic heroine Nastasya and Prince Myshkin, her epileptic lover, without leaving the stage or changing costume.

The only other actor in the piece, Baocho Tsuji, plays the role of Nastasya's second lover,

Ragozbin. "It is easier to play a character that is much different from myself, such as a woman," said 38-year-old Tamasaburo surrounded by orchids in his dressing room. "I can be more daring in expression."

"But I have now developed enough confidence to play male characters. I am playing more and more male roles, although this is the first time I have played both woman and a man without any costume change," added the slim hachelor.

Kabuki has its roots in a wandering 16th century theatrical troupe and combines drama, music and mime to extravagant and colourful productions.

The all-male cast was the indirect result of a ban on prostitution by the ruling shoguns in the 18th and 19th centuries — actresses being then regarded on a par with prostitutes.

Tamasaburo is a parity in the Japanese world of arts — rooted in the classic tradition but eager for challenges in other disciplines.

He surprised his fans last year by dancing during a concert with American cellist Yo Yo Ma, and even shocked some when he danced with French choreographer Maurice Bejart and his ballet troupe, also in 1988.

"The long (Kabuki) training has built a core in my art, which now allows me to work with other types of artists," he said. "Without the training, I would not have been able to develop my style."

Tamasaburo, whose real name is Shinichi Morita, was born in

1950, the seventh son of a restaurant owner in central Tokyo. His mother, who had tried every charm and potion to give birth to a daughter, was disappointed to see yet another boy.

A frail child, his interests always differed from those of his brothers. His mother took him along to her dance class when he was four and here Tamasaburo discovered his real passion.

He joined the world of Kabuki two years later, and became a professional actor at the age of 14.

Unlike previous centuries, Onoagata no longer live as transvestites in their private lives. But little of the intensity and severity of the training required of Kabuki actors has changed.

"It was very hard. Every day we started early in the morning and did not finish until 10 at night," Tamasaburo said of his apprenticeship.

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"Once I thought of quitting. Although, looking back, it was just the usual doubt everybody undergoes during adolescence. I basically cannot live without it," he said.

He directed his first play — a successful Japanese language production of "Romeo and Juliet" — in Tokyo last year.

Asked about his future plans, he said: "I would like to direct more dramas. And for the next 10 years I'd like to work with different artists from foreign countries."

"I was very glad to be given the rare opportunity to work with Mr. Wajda from Poland."

Tamasaburo was reluctant to talk about his private life, but said: "I like to play the roles of complex women, although I think they would be difficult to live with."

"In real life, I prefer sweet and affectionate women."

Such is the world that scientists and engineers envision with the advent of fusion, the process by which atoms are fused together to release energy.

Some experts say those visions are not just wishful thinking, but goals that must be achieved because the age of fossil fuels is expected to start drawing to a close within a few decades. And when fossil fuels are gone or become impractically expensive, something must be ready to take their place.

"The most likely thing will be fusion," said Harold P. Furth, director of the Princeton University Plasma Physics Laboratory.

"The present projections are that by the year 2040 or 2050, there will be a divergence between the energy required for a growing population and the energy available from fossil fuels, easily obtainable uranium and other sources."

"There will be quite a calamity unless something new is ready," he added.

The "cold fusion" process announced last month by the University of Utah is still controversial and unproven. But Furth and others believe a fusion

process based on compressing deuterium plasma and heating it to 100 million degrees Fahrenheit (56 million centigrade) can be developed within two decades or less.

Thousands of researchers working at both federal and university laboratories are moving closer to the point where the fusion fires will ignite and burn, powered by deuterium or hydrogen, chemicals easily extracted from seawater.

Most experts believe the fusion future lies with the high-pressure "hot" process, which has not been achieved yet, but they would welcome convincing proof that Utah's cold, room-temperature fusion works because it possibly could be developed more quickly.

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Flood of Soviet paper money fuels inflation and shortages

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union has printed so much paper money that it could buy all the goods in Western Europe if the Europeans would accept the rouble at the official rate, a group of economists said Thursday.

Writing in the weekly Moscow News the economists said the flood of unsecured money had brought rampant inflation which was causing shortages and could lead to draconian measures such as forced labour and the rationing of all goods.

"Today the country is in the shackles of the inflation crisis," said the article by Soltan Dzarsarov, Anatoly Strelnyay, and several other economists who have formed an "anti-inflation" group.

"So much paper money is printed that with it we could buy up all the goods in Western Europe if they would agree to accept the rouble at the official rate," they noted.

The official value of the rouble

at around \$1.58 is more than 10 times higher than the rate offered to Western tourists in the Soviet Union by black marketers.

The Moscow News article noted that some East European countries, where the rouble is partly convertible, had already forbidden Soviet tourists from taking out consumer goods.

A letter in the Communist Party daily Pravda Thursday indicated the value of money has hit such a low in one Siberian village that local shops have set prices in quantities of meat — one of the most precious commodities in the Soviet Union.

The letter was from 27 villagers in the Krasnoyarsk region who complained that an average-sized

family needed four to five cows to get footwear and clothing.

"How is a collective farmer to get hold of these cows?" they asked.

For years Soviet officials denied inflation existed in their country but a recent worsening of food shortages has focused attention on the fact too much money is chasing too few goods.

Meat is rationed in many parts of the Soviet Union and sugar is now rationed everywhere, including Moscow.

Soviet Finance Minister Boris Gostev said in November that he believed inflation in the Soviet Union was running at between 0.9 per cent and 1.5 per cent.

But another top official, junior Politburo member Alexandra Biryukova, said in January that prices of some consumer goods — one index by which inflation is measured in the West — have risen by up to 18 per cent since 1985.

Official figures released last month also show Soviet wages had grown more than twice as fast as productivity in the first quarter of 1989, further aggravating unsatisfied domestic demand for consumer goods.

Low oil production

According to a report published in Pravda Soviet oil production in the first three months of this year fell short of target by 721,000 tonnes.

The first quarter figures from the state statistics committee Goskonstat also showed that the Soviet balance of trade was

worsening as Western imports increased.

The report revealed that oil production stood at 152 million tonnes — 721,000 tonnes below target. It blamed the shortfall on the poor performance of two oil companies.

The figures showed the Soviet trade gap widened to 600 million roubles (\$960 million) from 40 million roubles (\$64 million) in the same period last year.

Imports outstripped exports by 16.0 billion roubles (\$25.6 billion) to 15.4 billion roubles (\$24.6 billion). The report said the decline was caused by a 2.6 per cent decrease in exports to East European countries and a 1.5 per cent increase in purchases from the West.

Lower world prices for oil and other raw materials — the bulk of Moscow's hard currency exports — added to the problem.

In the same period in 1988 imports were 15.81 billion roubles (\$25.2 billion) and exports were 15.77 billion roubles (\$25.23 billion).

Figures showed the Soviet Union recorded a trade surplus for the whole of last year of two billion roubles (\$3.2 billion), with imports at 65 billion roubles (\$104 billion) and exports at 67 billion roubles (\$107.2 billion).

The figures appeared to confirm that the Kremlin's liberalising economic reforms, criticised by some Soviet economists as half-hearted, have been unable to bring a quick solution to the country's mounting economic problems.



Planning Minister Ziad Fariz (left) and U.S. ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth (centre) sign agreements increasing USAID grants to Jordan (Petra photo).

USAID raises grants to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Five agreements amending grants given by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to Jordan were concluded Thursday at the Ministry of Planning.

The new amendments included an increased allocation of \$9.25 million for various Jordanian projects, being through USAID grants.

The first agreement includes raising the special grant for guaranteeing loans to develop small scale enterprises from \$3.5

million to \$7 million. The amendment is designed to provide the necessary funds to cover risks which might be incurred by small business as a result of getting commercial loans from commercial banks and other finance institutions to set up new projects or expand existing ones. It also aims at providing technical assistance and training for personnel in charge of credit and loan facilities.

The second agreement provided for an increase of \$1.7 million to become \$14.053 million to

lion, for financing feasibility studies of some projects in addition to providing on-the-job training.

The third amendment included an extra allocation of \$1.4 million to the original of \$5.1 million to cover costs of scholarships and training courses to improve performance and efficiency in administrative and technical skills of staff in both the private and public sectors.

The fourth agreement provided for an additional \$1.5 million to the original grant of \$2.5 million. The agreement is designed to develop agricultural marketing in Jordan, improve information on local and foreign markets to open new potential export markets and draw up a special specifications for fruit and vegetables.

According to the fifth amendment, the original special grant amount of \$100,000 was increased to \$250,000 to provide consulting services to the National Medical Institution (NMI) in the fields of health management, financing, information, specifications and training.

The agreements were signed on behalf of the Jordanian government by Planning Minister Ziad Fariz, while it was signed for the U.S. government by its ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth and the USAID director.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, May 4, 1989		
Central Bank official rates		
U.S. dollar	Buy 538.0	Set 542.0
French franc	Japanese yen (for 100)	401.8 406.1
Pound Sterling	904.9	913.8
Deutschmark	284.7	287.5
Swiss franc	319.8	323.2
Belgian franc (for 100)	36.1	37.4

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.		
One Sterling	1.6750/60	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1830/40	Canadian dollar
	1.8970/80	Deutschmarks
	2.1390/1400	Dutch guilders
	1.6915/25	Swiss francs
	39.68/74	Belgian francs
	6.3990/4040	French francs
	1384/1385	Italian lire
	134.10/30	Japanese yen
	6.4300/50	Swedish crowns
	6.6700/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.3725/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	377.25/377.65	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Profit-taking and nervousness ahead of U.S. employment data took the All Ordinaries index 3.5 points lower to 1,508.5.

TOKYO — Japanese markets are closed until Monday, May 8.

HONG KONG — Late trade boosted the Hang Seng index 41.74 points to close at 3,262.86, a post-crash high for the second straight day. "It was a typical bullish market," a broker said.

SINGAPORE — The stock market closed on a mixed note in active trading after selective profit-taking alternated with bargain-busting. The Straits Times industrial index closed 1.02 lower at 1,282.52.

BOMBAY — Share prices declined during a poor trading session with subdued investors sitting on the sidelines.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed sharply higher in relatively thin trade, benefiting from scattered short-covering in the nearly empty market. Tech real-time 30-share DAX index closed 11.88 points above Wednesday's close at 1,380.46.

ZURICH — Shares closed steady with a firmer touch but turnover was very low after the Ascension Day holiday and before the weekend. The all-share Swiss index rose two points to 1,026.9.

PARIS — Shares ended the day higher with interest boosted by the U.S. jobs data. The 50-share price indicator closed 0.50 per cent up after opening 0.06 per cent down.

LONDON — Shares were looking set to beat their post-crash closing highs in the afternoon as active new-account buying and a strong Wall Street rise gave the market confidence. By 1429 GMT, the FTSE 100 index was 10.7 points up, at 2129.7.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks stretched strong early gains after a brief pause in morning trading, putting the Dow ahead 18 at 2402.

Senate, House pass 'budgets' nearly similar to Bush line

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate and House passed similar versions Thursday of a nearly \$1.2 trillion budget for the 1990 financial year that follows closely a bipartisan accord with President George Bush.

The Senate voted 68 to 31 for a \$1.16 trillion budget just hours after the House of Representatives approved its \$1.17 trillion version on a vote of 263 to 157. Congressmen said they intend to reach a compromise version by May 15.

The White House and congressional budget accord provided slightly less defence spending and slightly more domestic spending than Bush had asked for but contained no major tax increases, enabling him to keep the "Read my Lips: No New Taxes" pledge he made to voters before the 1988 election.

Critics argued that the budget plans relied on overly optimistic assumptions of U.S. economic performance and contained little real savings in future government spending.

Even as the chief Democratic and Republican architects of the accord with Bush urged its passage, they acknowledged that it was a stopgap measure to buy time to negotiate a more lasting solution to the problem of the government's red ink.

"Nobody has denied that it is a short-term effort," House Budget Committee Chairman Leon Panetta said after the vote.

Senate Budget Committee Chairman Jim Sasser, a Tennessee Democrat, called it "a minimalist approach."

The Senate version has a \$97.4 billion deficit for the year starting Oct. 1 and the House version puts it at \$99.7 billion. Both are narrowly below the ceiling of \$100 billion called for in the budget law and avoid automatic spending cuts in defence and domestic programmes.

Congressional analysts estimated this year's deficit at \$159 billion, well above the \$136 billion ceiling called for under the law.

A House-Senate conference next week will discuss minor differences in domestic spending.

One of the most contentious issues will be taxes

Cash-strapped Argentina passes hat to businessmen

BUENOS AIRES (R) — The Argentine government is almost broke and is asking local businessmen for a \$500 million loan.

The move, announced Tuesday, underlines the dire strait of the economy in the run-up to a general election on May 14.

"The state is crying for help. Its foreign reserves are dwindling and it can't get foreign loans because of the government's mismanagement of the economy," said a businessman, who asked not to be named.

Argentine governments usually resort to foreign loans to cover their deficits. But the country's access to fresh funds from abroad has been restricted since it stopped servicing its \$60 billion debt in August, 1988.

President Raul Alfonsin's administration, beset by raging inflation, expects Argentina's leading companies to subscribe to this issue of "solidarity finance bonds" to narrow its massive

public sector deficit.

"We chose to seek financial resources within the country, among those sectors most benefited by the distribution of income... we know businessmen will understand," Economy Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese said Tuesday in a televised speech.

The Argentine austral has lost more than half its value against the dollar since Pugliese took office a month ago. Private economists expect the rise in the cost of living to top 40 per cent during May, after an estimated 35 per cent in March.

Argentina's public deficit is running at about 15 per cent of its \$80 billion gross national product (GNP), private economists estimate. In 1988 official estimates put it at seven per cent of GNP.

Pugliese's predecessor, Juan Sourrouille, depleted the central bank's foreign reserves in an effort to prop up the austral, which closed at 82.50 to the dollar

Thursday. In early February the rate was 17 Austral.

Argentina decided to free-float its currency last week for the first time in 30 years after the authorities saw that they lacked the resources to control its value.

"Some of these measures entail a great fiscal effort for an exhausted state with no financial capacity," Pugliese said in his speech.

No matter the outcome of the elections politicians will have to

agree on how to deal with the deficit, economists say.

The state must still make good on \$1.5 billion in public bonds it floated in recent years on the domestic market.

"No matter who wins the elections, politicians will have to come to terms with the public sector deficit. If they do, it will probably lead to higher taxes and public services rates, but if they don't Argentina will be heading toward total chaos," a private sector economist said.

The main union confederation, CUT, was disbanded under army rule and some of its leaders were prosecuted in connection with leftist activities. Many labour rights were curbed by the army.

The main union confederation, TCU, currently controls two-thirds of Turkey's 3.3 million workers in a total labour force of 18 million.

Ozal is torn between implementing what he believes is economically necessary and what he feels is politically desirable.

Demand for consumer goods has slumped. Car makers, who once haughtily keep customers waiting six months for a new car, have slashed output by a third as demand dropped. Easy credit has in turn become a fact of life.

"Everyone is uneasy today in Turkey," Bosphorus University economist Tansu Ciller told Reuters. "There is no... plan. Everything comes after a couple of touches on a calculator."

Ozal has chosen to pump some more cash into the system.

He has promised loans to house-building cooperatives of 8,000 billion lira (\$3.9 billion) and advance payments of 1,000 billion lira (\$483 million) to farmers in 1989.

But some officials are trying to maintain the strict monetary policy which helped to curb inflation.

"Solutions for revitalising the economy... should not conflict with inflation which has started to come down," central bank governor Rusdu Saracoglu warned last week.

"With all these state payments, demand will rise before production can meet it. This will fuel inflation," he added.

The driest spring in three decades is also troubling policy makers. A good harvest supported a 1988 growth rate of 3.4 per cent, despite a slump in industrial growth.

Sports

U.K. expert looks over Jordan's facilities for the disabled

The President of the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped, His Royal Highness Prince Ra'ad Bin Zaid, recently invited Dr. John F. Grant to visit Jordan. Dr. Grant is the President of the International Wheelchair Sports Organisation, (ISMSG) based in Stoke Mandeville, England. He and his wife visited Jordan on their way home to Australia from Europe where they participated in the planning for the 1992 Barcelona Disabled Paralympics.

During his visit on May 2nd, Dr. Grant spoke to the administrative council of the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped. Vice President Dr. Mohammed Sokour welcomed him on behalf of H.R.H. Prince Ra'ad. A brief overview of the current development of sports for the disabled in Jordan was then given by the Secretary General Colonel Yousef El Karmi. Dr. Grant informed the members that he was extremely impressed with the federation's facilities — one of two disabled centres in the world with its own tartan track. His discussion included different ways the federation might improve in its ability to benefit the handicapped athletics.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

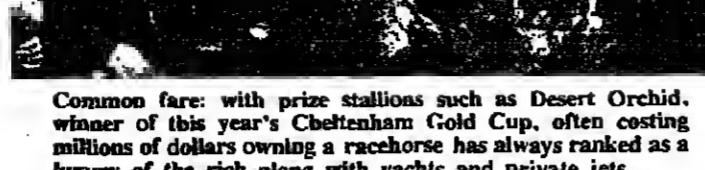
Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦AJ7 ♦84 K54 ♦AQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
2 ♦ Pass 3 ♦ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—You have to choose between two clubs and a raise to two spades with only three trumps. Since your most likely game is in spades, we make the immediate raise to two spades.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦AJ7 84 K54 ♦AQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
2 ♦ Pass 3 ♦ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—Partner has asked you to evaluate your diamond holding for game purposes, and you have just enough to accept. Jump to four spades even though you have only three-card support. On this auction, partner must have five spades, but the hand should play well even if you have a 4-3 fit.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦AQJ 762 AQJ7 ♦853
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?
A.—Whether you open four- or five-card majors, you should not jump in opener's suit with only three-card support unless no other bid is available. Here, you have a perfectly viable waiting bid of two diamonds. You will jump in spades at your next turn.



Common fare: with prize stallions such as Desert Orchid, winner of this year's Cheltenham Gold Cup, often costing millions of dollars owning a racehorse has always ranked as a luxury of the rich along with yachts and private jets...

Sport of kings meets the masses

keenly fought international battle to build new racing dynasties.

A spokesman for the Dublin stockbrokers who organised the original flotation said: "If Saratoga wins the 2,000 guineas Saturday, he could be worth up to \$12 million. The colt has generated a lot of excitement over Classic Thoroughbreds."

"It could not have been launched at a worse time — the week of the crash of '87. Shares were offered at 30 pence (45 cents). They dropped as low as 17 pence (25.5 cents) but are now up at 40 (60 cents)."

He reckoned that a win for Saratoga, whose Sire El Gran Senor won the 2,000 guineas so impressively in 1984, could boost the share price by anything up to 25 per cent.

"But there is a strong risk element attached to racing. Nothing is certain until you are past the post," he said.

The list of the firm's directors reads like a who's who of racing

with O'Brien being joined by Coolmore stud chief John Magnier, Irish racing board chairman Michael Smurfit and British football pools magnate Robert Sangster, who has extensive racing interests in Ireland, Britain, the U.S. and Australia.

Next in line are the institutions — all the major Irish pension fund managers — and last, but not least, the ordinary punter eager for a slice of this millionaire's game.

O'Brien is eager to keep their interest at a peak, producing a regular newsletter on how each horse is doing. His son Charles produces the classic hotline, a telephone service updated twice a week with the latest racing plans.

Cheap rate entrance fees to Irish racecourses have been negotiated and O'Brien hopes to organise a shareholders' open day at Ballydoyle, the palatial stables in County Tipperary which have produced racing greats like Nijinsky and Sir Ivor.

Chinese gracefully vie on the boards

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — China's Yu Xiaolong finished ahead of teammate Gao Min, the Olympic springboard gold medalist, in the 1-metre springboard team competition Thursday at the World Diving Cup.

Yu, 18, who said through an interpreter that diving keeps her from dating, scored 481.98 points for her 10 dives at the Indiana University Natatorium. Gao, who said she spends little time on the 1-meterboard had 464.24 points.

Daphne Jongejans of the Netherlands placed third among the 17 competitors with 429.15 points and U.S. national champion Julie Farrell, making her debut in international competition, was fourth with 426.12.

Irina Lashko of the Soviet Union placed fifth with 423.13 and American Reyne Borup, also making her international debut, was sixth with 410.28.

The top 12 finishers advanced to the quarterfinals of the individual competition with the first four receiving byes into the semifinals.

"It's very difficult to say that

feeling I have now because this is only preliminary," said Yu, the Chinese national champion on the 1-metre board who, like other top Chinese divers, has left her family to train in Beijing.

"I'm satisfied with the second but I want first place when it's over," said Gao, who set the women's world scoring record on the three-metre springboard with 614.07 points last year in Canada.

The 1-2 placing gave China 291 points at the midway point of the six events in the team competition. The United States, trying to defend the title it won two years ago, was second with 274 points. The Soviet Union was third at 255.

Meanwhile, Olympic platform bronze medalist Wendy Lian Williams of the United States overcame the disappointment of placing eighth in her specialty by advancing into the finals.

Williams, 21, accumulated 219.72 points for her four dives to lead the four quarterfinalists in her bracket. She then topped her semifinal bracket with a 257.79 total.

"It's very difficult to say that

Lendl and Agassi progress

NEW YORK (AP) — Top-seeded Ivan Lendl warmed to the weather and defending champion Andre Agassi heated up after a slow start Thursday to move into the quarterfinals of the tournament of champions.

Lendl used a powerful serve to beat Jordi Arrese of Spain 6-3, 6-2, while Agassi rallied to eliminate fellow teen-ager Jim Courier, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5.

After several days of chilly, windy weather, the sun came out at the West Side tennis club in Forest Hills.

"The conditions were much easier today," Lendl said. "It wasn't windy and it was fairly warm."

Agassi, the third seed, overcame an 0-3 start in the first set and a tender ankle to win his second three-setter in 16 hours.

"(He) Courier is stronger than me and that makes it tough," Agassi said. "I have to beat him with my head and my ability to vary my shots."

Three other American seeds advanced to the quarterfinals — no. 6 Aaron Krickstein, no. 7 Brad Gilbert and no. 8 Michael Chang.

Krickstein beat 11th-seeded Luis Matar of Brazil 6-4, 7-6 (7-4). Gilben defeated no. 10 Slobodan Zivojinovic of Yugoslavia 7-6 (9-7), 6-3 and Chang ousted no. 9 Andres Gomez of Ecuador 6-3, 7-6 (8-6).

Agassi accidentally hit himself in the left ankle with his racket while serving at 3-4 in the final set, forcing him to favour the leg for a few minutes. But he went on to hold serve and break Courier in the next game for a 5-4 lead.

Courier, an 18-year-old Floridian who turned pro last February, broke right back to even the set by Agassi ended the two-hour match by taking the final two games.

"The ankle bothered me for a while, but then it loosened up and

out and he hit back a winner," Agassi said. "I couldn't believe he wouldn't say it was out. That really distracted me. From that point on, I really wanted to win."

Courier, ranked 55th in the world, was disheartened by the loss.

"I'm tired of losing big matches to big players. It's time for me to win those matches," he said.

Lendl had nine aces and 10 service winners against Arrese,

ranked 67th in the world. "I served well today and I was hitting my shots much deeper than yesterday," Lendl said. "Except for a little lapse in the second set, I was pleased with the way I played."

Like a lot of players, Lendl is puzzled by the sudden downfall of Mats Wilander, who was beaten in straight sets Wednesday by Francesco Cancellotti of Italy.

The challenge of failure

NEW YORK (R) — Andre Agassi has suffered something of a fall from grace in recent months but says he wouldn't trade the experience for anything.

The 19-year-old Agassi, the third seed and defending champion at the tournament of champions this week, was nothing short of a sensation in 1988.

The teenager from Las Vegas exploded onto the scene with six singles titles as his ranking vaulted from 91 at the beginning of 1987 to third in the world by the end of 1988.

But 1989 has so far been a struggle.

The fifth-ranked Agassi, who has shown no signs of quitting in winning two three-set matches this week to reach the quarterfinals at Forest Hills, has set to play in a final this year and has been a regular early-round upset victim.

"I wasn't playing tennis at all," Agassi said of the first three months of 1989. "I should have been playing the satellites... and maybe even juniors. Mentally the way I handled myself at the beginning of this year was a disgrace to myself."

"They're ready to push you up and then you get there and they're not there to pull you down," he said.

Agassi, a crowd favourite last year for his on-court antics, said it has been a sobering experience to realise how quickly fans can turn against you once you reach the top.

"Two months ago I never would have won a match like this."

Agassi, who is undefeated in two years of Davis Cup play, said his attitude and his game began to turn around last month after helping the United States defeat France.

"Everybody's kind of looking at me ready to label me as obnoxious, a flash in the pan... it's kind of like, well if he

doesn't get his head together for his country, he never will."

Agassi said coming back to defeat Henri Leconte after squandering the lead in the third set was a big turning point.

"I'd been labelled as someone who just kind of gives away sets and maybe even will give away a match," he said.

"But to lose that (third) set being up eight match points or six match points (actually five) and to come back and play even stronger, I think people wanted to see that from me."

"They're ready to push you up and then you get there and they're not there to pull you down," he said.

Wilander has won only one of 10 tournaments since becoming Lendl in the U.S. Open final last September to take over the no. 1 ranking in the world.

"If he cannot explain it, obviously I cannot," Lendl said.

Toshack may move to Real Madrid

MADRID (R) — Briton John Toshack is poised to take one of soccer's plum jobs — coach at Real Madrid, Spanish newspaper said Thursday.

El Pais said the club was offering Toshack around 100 million pesetas (\$85,000) for a contract which would initially last a year, about four times the amount he is earning as coach at San Sebastian side Real Sociedad.

In addition, Real would pay Real Sociedad up to \$50 million pesetas (\$425,000) for the move, since Toshack's contract runs to June 1991.

Diario 16 said it looked virtually certain that Toshack would go to Real and if they were prepared to compensate Real Sociedad, there was little the Basque side could do to stop the move.

Toshack himself was not immediately available for comment and Real Madrid would not confirm the newspaper reports.

Peanuts

IF YOU'RE HUNGRY AND YOU REALLY WANT YOUR SUPPER, YOU HAVE TO KNOW HOW TO STARE AT THE BACK DOOR...



YOUR EYES HAVE TO FLASH LIKE THE BEACON FROM A LIGHTHOUSE!



A GOOD STARE CAN PEEL THE PAINT RIGHT OFF THE DOOR!



Mutt'n' Jeff

SEE HERE, EVERY TIME I COME TO COLLECT, MUTT IS OUT! ARE YOU SURE HE'S NOT HOME?



HOW COME HIS HAT IS ON THE HALL STAND THERE?

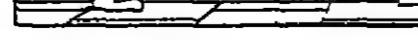


THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S TOO TALL TO STAND IN THE CLOSET WITH IT ON!

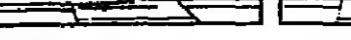


Andy Capp

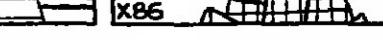
WHAT DID THE DOCTOR HAVE TO SAY, ANDY?



NATURALLY, OUTDOORS IS WHAT YOU PASS THROUGH IN ORDER TO GET FROM YOUR HOUSE TO THE PUB, AND VICE VERSA.



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Official reconciliation policy sows student discord

Peking strike breaks up

PEKING (R) — Some Chinese students drifted back to class Friday while others continued a two-week-old strike, as the democracy movement showed signs of a split in the face of an official policy of conciliation.

One day after a mass pro-democracy demonstration in Peking, activists on several of the capital's campuses said most of the 80,000 or so striking students would return to class by next week.

Students said the decision left many protesters disappointed and disillusioned.

"How can we end the strike when we did not get anything from the government? We are just giving up," said a student at Peking University, which remained on strike Friday.

Officials of the illegal student union which announced the end of the action defended the decision.

"Returning to class is just one of our tactics," said Wang Zixin, 21, secretary-general of the union which coordinated the mass demonstration Thursday, paralysing

protesters for open and accurate reports in the official media.

In response to the students' demand for dialogue, government leaders have met with selected student groups to discuss their demands for freedom and democracy.

Peking for the second time in eight days.

"We can go back to school, we can strike again. We want to show we have flexible methods."

Thousands of students also marched for democratic reforms in at least 10 other cities.

Wang said they decided to end the strike after successfully marshalling tens of thousands of banner-carrying students through the centre Peking and seeing several conciliatory moves by the authorities.

"The government has taken a step back. Ending the strike can open up the road to more dialogue," he said.

Major newspapers covered Thursday's demonstration more fully than any other event during three weeks of unrest, partially answering a key demand by the

Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang gave the mildest response to the student movement from any government leader in a speech prominently reported in all newspapers Friday.

Wang said several prominent radical members of the student committee resigned Thursday night in a disagreement with moderate members over tactics.

Two who resigned had spearheaded the drive to give the government the ultimatum — talks with the independent union or another protest — that led to Thursday's demonstration.

"There were problems with their analysis. Some of the things they supported were not accepted by the others," Wang said.

Wuerkaixi, a student at Teachers University, stepped

down as chairman after just over a week, students said. His replacement was not named in public.

Student leaders at Peking University, the nation's most prestigious, were fiercely divided over whether to go back to class Saturday, students said.

"Who announced the resumption of classes? Can you listen to the voice of your conscience?" asked a poster on the campus. Another, signed "A student weeping for democracy, spoke of the mistake of returning to classes."

Wang said he understood that many students felt upset at returning to class without a clear victory.

"There are many things we haven't gotten yet and many things we just cannot get from the government," he said.

He added the union planned to gain legitimacy through mass elections and apply to the government for legal recognition. He declined to say when the elections would be held.

that was scheduled before the derailment.

Most of the 9,000 victims in the Tamil separatist war were Sinhalese civilians who were shot or hacked to death in village massacres or killed in bombing attacks on buses and trains.

Rival Tamil militant groups also have been attacked, along with members of the small Muslim minority. At least 860 Indian soldiers died trying to disarm the Tigers and enforce a 1987 Indian-brokered peace plan.

India, the region's biggest military and political power, got involved in the matter because of the political clout of its own 60-million-member Tamil minority.

Sri Lankan Tamils, like most Indians, are Hindus. The Sinhalese, who make up 75 per cent of Sri Lanka's people, are mostly Buddhists.

said Friday just before the talks resumed at 10 a.m. (0430 GMT).

Tamils, who make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, say the Sinhalese majority discriminates against them in language, jobs, education and use of the Sinhala language.

The talks between the Tigers and the government are taking place at a luxury hotel in the centre of Colombo, according to sources who spoke on condition the hotel was not identified.

No additional security was visible outside the hotel, but witnesses said Friday one elevator was set aside for the negotiators' use and stops only on the 14th floor where they meet.

The greatest security threat presumably would come from radicals within the Sinhalese ethnic majority. The People's Liberation Front, an ultranationalist Sinhalese group with Marxist origins, has embarked on its own

campaign on assassinations and bombings against the Sinhalese-dominated government.

The front, which says the government is making too many concessions to Tamils, has killed more than 3,500 people in the last two years, according to government reports. Most of the victims were Sinhalese politicians, bureaucrats and supporters of government policies.

Railroad officials blamed the front for the derailment of a government-operated freight train in southern Sri Lanka Friday morning.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said no one was injured but seven cars ran off the tracks where some railway ties had been removed.

The derailment happened in Weligama as the train headed to Matara, 120 kilometres south of Colombo. Premadasa is expected in Matara later Friday on a visit

to the region.

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Sri Lankan Tamils, like most Indians, are Hindus. The Sinhalese, who make up 75 per cent of Sri Lanka's people, are mostly Buddhists.

Slow pace seen as Colombo talks begin

COLOMBO (AP) — Peace talks between the government and Tamil rebels will be "a slow-moving process," Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne predicted Friday as the two sides started their second session.

He said President Ranasinghe

Premadasa has instructed his seven-man negotiating team to examine in detail all grievances put forth by the Tamil militants.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, whose six-year separatist war has claimed more than 9,000 lives, dispatched five negotiators on a courtesy visit to Premadasa Thursday night after the first round of talks. It was the first time senior Tiger leaders were known to have met a Sri Lankan president since the insurrection by their ethnic minority started in 1983.

"The discussions will cover all Tamil grievances and will be a slow-moving process," Wijeratne

said Friday just before the talks resumed at 10 a.m. (0430 GMT).

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IRA warns Thatcher with bloody attacks on anniversary

DUBLIN (R) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA) marking Margaret Thatcher's 10th anniversary in power with two killings, warned the British prime minister there was no military solution to the Irish question.

In a carefully orchestrated surge of violence in Northern Ireland, IRA guerrillas killed a British soldier and a prison officer Thursday in two separate car bomb attacks in the border area known as "bandit country."

The IRA, fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland in a 21-year guerrilla campaign that has cost almost 3,000 lives, then issued a statement to the media in Dublin and Belfast to show the

killings had been carefully timed. "We remind the British people on the 10th anniversary of Thatcher's government that the Irish question remains unresolved and cannot be resolved by military policies," it said.

The IRA pledged to continue its campaign of bombings and shootings if Thatcher continued to press for military goals.

In 1984, the guerrilla group narrowly failed to assassinate Thatcher, killing five people in the British seaside hotel where she was staying for her Conservative party's annual conference.

After that near miss, the IRA said: "Today we were unlucky, but remember we only have to be

lucky once. You will have to be lucky always."

The latest IRA killings and its follow-up statement were condemned in both Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

Moderate nationalist Seamus Mallon, from Northern Ireland's Social Democratic and Labour Party, said the deaths were "the result of the IRA's bloodlust and desire to inflict their will on the people of south Armagh where they have carried out a campaign of fear and brutal death almost unparalleled."

Dublin's Irish Times Friday accused the IRA of hypocrisy for cold-blooded murder, it adds insult to obscenity," the paper said.

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The pill increases cancer risk — survey

LONDON (R) — Young women who take contraceptive pills for four years or more run an increased risk of developing breast cancer, according to a study published in the Lancet Medical Journal Friday.

The five-year study, the largest of its kind, focused on British women under the age of 36. It said four to eight years on popular brands of the pill increased the risk of breast cancer by 40 per cent, while more than eight years increased the risk by about 70 per cent.

"We don't know whether this risk lasts beyond the age of 36,"

Dr. Klim McPherson of Oxford University, one of the study's authors, told a news conference.

The report said: "The most consistent interpretation of our results and those from previous studies is that the excess risk is transient and diminishes or disappears at older ages."

"The possibility remains, however, that prolonged oral contraceptive use beginning at an early age produces a persistent and substantial increase in risk."

"Women should aim for the lowest-dose pill for the shortest possible time," Clair Chivers of

the Cancer Research Campaign, co-funders of the survey, advised at the news conference.

"Women who are not having intercourse should stop taking it," she said.

The researchers stressed that the risks had to be kept in perspective.

"Breast cancer is uncommon below age 36, the age group that was studied. Only one woman in 500 develops the disease before age 36, so even a 70 per cent increase in risk would only put the chances of developing breast cancer by this age up to about one in 300," the researchers said.

Earlier studies on the relationship between the pill and breast cancer have reached conflicting results. Last January, a U.S. Food and Drug Administration committee of experts declared that recent research on possible links between the pill and breast cancer was inconclusive.

The research also found a progesterone-only pill, known as the mini-pill, may actually protect against cancer but the report said further study was needed.

The survey was made on 1,049 British patients and the same number of controls.

The word of Jean-Marie Tjibaou will be respected and

we pledge to make sure that the process is followed to its conclusion," Joredie said in an interview on French Television.

Joredie, who was a witness to the killings, said he thought at least five or six gunmen were involved.

The FLNKS announced Friday it was calling off ceremonies planned on Ouvéa to mark the first anniversary of the May 5 assault by French military gendarmes on a cave where separatists were holding more than 20 other gendarmes hostage. The fighting left 19 of the hostage-takers and two gendarmes dead.

Tjibaou, Yeiwe and Joredie were in Ouvéa to take part in the ceremonies when Thurs-

day's attack occurred.

Native Melanesians, known as Kanaks, make up 43 per cent of the inhabitants of New Caledonia, a group of islands 1,600 kilometres east of Australia. Most favour independence. European settlers and their descendants make up 37 per cent, nearly all of whom want to remain part of France.

The rest of the people are Polynesians and Asians, also favourable to retaining the link to France. But the Melanesian population is growing much faster than the others, and is expected to be in the majority again early in the next century.

Elections called off

Rocard said later Friday he was postponing local elections in New Caledonia.

He said in a radio interview before leaving Paris for the funerals of Tjibaou and Yeiwe that the elections were being suspended to allow time for tribal mourning.

The move effectively derailed the schedule for a handover of power by Paris, which imposed direct rule last year, to regional councils that were to have been elected in a June 11 ballot. He gave no indication of when the vote might take place.

The elections were part of the pact signed last August.

Rocard told Radio France Internationale that he would not give up his battle to end violence in New Caledonia. He denied that the peace plan, which he negotiated, was in tatters.

"We have to mobilise more energy, more strength and more conviction," he said.

(the scandal) was caused by a bunch of guys running wild in the White House basement."

But that could change if the Honduran episode resurfaces in the upcoming trials or in a reopening of congressional investigations into the scandal.

If it is proved that Bush was intimately involved in efforts to circumvent the congressional aid ban by persuading third countries to intervene, Bush would look like a liar in view of his repeated assertions that he played no such role.

If he indeed knew nothing about the plan and was only an unwitting emissary for Reagan, he might look like a dupe.

"He either looks dumb or he looks devious," said John Banzhaf, professor of law and legal activism at George Washington University.

New DELHI — 29 29 100 Clear

PARIS — 12 53 17 59 Rain

ROME — 12 54 26 77 Clear

TOKYO — 17 63 24 75 Cloudy

VIENNA — 13 55 22 74 Clear

M — Indicates missing information

Column 8

More equality in Switzerland

BERN (AP) — The Swiss border guard corps will be opened for women in